Punjabi language in DD and AIR

353. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Governmentus policy as regards Punjabi language is concerned;

(b) the number of news bulletins in Punjabi broadcast by Doordarshan and All India Radio on national or international bulletins;

(c) the status of Punjabi language on Doordarshan and Radio in Jammu and Kashmir, the details of news bulletins, timings and other programme being shown in the State; and

(d) the status of Punjabi language in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh on the local Doordarshan and Radio Stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA) : (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that AIRus communication policy envisages broadcasts in different languages and dialects to meet the communication needs of listeners in the various parts of the country. Similarly Doordarshan telecasts programmes in all major languages including Punjabi.

(b) AIR produces and broadcasts three National and one External bulletin in Punjabi from Delhi. Two Punjabi regional bulletins are broadcast from AIR, Chandigarh. Doordarshan telecasts one Punjabi bulletin on DD India, four bulletins on DD-Punjabi and three regional bulletins from DDK, Jalandhar. DDK, Chandigarh also telecasts local news bulletin in Punjabi on every Monday and Wednesday.

(c) AIR Stations and DDKs in Jammu & Kashmir do not broadcast Punjabi bulletins. Various programmes are broadcast in Punjabi from Radio Kashmir, Srinagar and Radio Kashmir, Jammu. Similarly, Punjabi programmes are telecast by DDKs in Jammu and Srinagar.

(d) In Haryana, AIR, Rohtak and DDK, Hissar broadcast programmes in Punjabi. In Himachal Pradesh, AIR, Shimla, Dharmshala and Hamirpur broadcast Punjabi music etc. and DDK, Shimla telecasts programmes in Punjabi occasionally.

Autonomous body to look into broadcasting sector

354. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI:
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up an autonomous body to look into the broadcasting sector; and

(b) if so, the terms of reference, objectives and composition of such a body?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry in the Year 2007 has put up a proposal to set up a Broadcasting Regulatory Authority of India by enactment of a Legislation for ensuring orderly growth of broadcasting services. The Draft of the Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill, 2007, which is available on this Ministryus website www.mib.nic.in *interalia* provides terms of reference, objectives and composition of the proposed Authority. However, concerns have been expressed by various sections in the media with respect to the need, scope, functional and fmancial autonomy and independent functioning of the proposed Regulator.

Ministry has initiated *vide* ranging consultations with stakeholders for arriving at a consensus on this issue. The Ministry has already held consultations with Indian Broadcasting Foundation, Multi System Operator (MSO) Alliance, News Broadcasters Association (NBA), Broadcast Editors Association (BEA) and the Cable Operators Federation of India (COFI). A task force of Ministryus officials and representatives of the Broadcasters is envisaged to hold further interactions with diverse stakeholders to understand their perspective and submit a roadmap for the setting up of an independent Broadcast Authority.

Non-utilization of DD Bhawan at MANDI HOUSE

355. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan News runs its channel from the Central Production Centre (CPC) headquarters at Asian Games Village and DD Bhawan set-up with Rs. 20 crores at Mandi House is not being utilized;

(b) whether it is a fact that DD Bhawan set-up at Mandi House is equipped with hi-tech equipments with production and transmission facilities;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the news automation system installed there has expired and Doordarshan has to make an additional expenditure of Rs. 174 lakhs towards annual maintenance contract; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN) : (a) Doordarshan News is at present running its channel from Central Production (CPC) Headquarters at Asian Games Village and necessary action is being taken for shifting News to DD Bhawan, Mandi House.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Doordarshan has informed that the warranty of News Automation System installed at DD Bhawan, Mandi House expired in December, 2008. No annual maintenance contract has, subsequently, been awarded and there has been no expenditure on this account. However, AMC is under process.